

AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

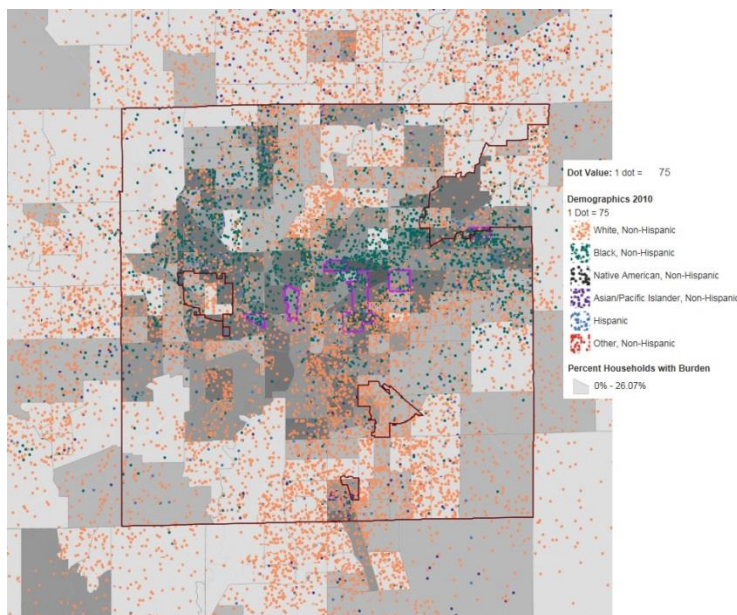
Since 1968, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been required to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) in all its programs. HUD recently published rules that incorporate more stringent requirements with regard to AFFH. According to [HUD](#), AFFH entails:

...taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.

While this rule currently only applies to **Community Development Block Grant**, **HOME**, and other programs governed by a [Consolidated Plan](#), the President's FY 2017 budget proposal includes a provision to extend the obligations of AFFH to [Qualified Allocation Plans](#). Jurisdictions must incorporate an **AFFH analysis and plan** into the first five-year Consolidated Plan after enactment of the AFFH rule. This will occur in 2020 for the State of Indiana, while dates will vary for Indiana's [Entitlement Communities](#). Both [states](#) and [localities](#) will conduct their AFFH analyses using different narrative tools informed by data and maps provided by HUD.

HUD has also developed a publicly available [mapping tool](#) to help communities identify patterns of segregation and disparity which prevent low-income households from accessing [areas of opportunity](#). The map below illustrates the distribution of White, Black, and Hispanic households in Indianapolis (Figure 1). The distribution of individuals across the city and surrounding areas demonstrates that Indianapolis features very few areas that appear integrated in proportion to their distributions in the general population. The shading represents the number of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) in use by census tract—the darker the gray, the greater the percentage of voucher holders, suggesting that in Indianapolis, low-income households holding HCVs are disproportionately located in neighborhoods with the greatest concentrations of minorities. The tool does not explain why this might be the case, but it offers information that could lead to a substantive and open conversation about AFFH.

Figure 1: 2010 Housing Choice Vouchers and Race/Ethnicity for Indianapolis



The [AFFH Tool](#) can also be used to map a range of other demographics and trends including housing cost burden, school quality, job proximity, environmental health, disability, and poverty. The information it offers is invaluable for initiating conversations about how public resources can play a role in improving access to opportunity for all Hoosiers.